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To: All News Media

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From: Cpl. Mark Francis
Lafayette P.D.

Subj.: News Release

COMMENTS:



LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 28, 2004

Time: 2:00 p.m.

First Degree Murder

Three men are in custody charged with 1st Degree Murder after leading a 13-year-old girl into a wooded area and (demanding) sex. The victim resisted the encounter and was **“bludgeoned to death”** by the suspects. Sunday, October 24, at 12:54pm, police were called to the wooded area behind 804 Martin Luther King, (Himbola Manor Apartments) where several neighborhood children discovered the body of **Alexuia Feast (13)** of 2506 East Simcoe Street. Investigators immediately began to canvass the area for information following the discovery of Alexia’s body. Several witnesses were located that described the victim with 3-men on October 11, 2004. With this information, Investigators continued to **“knock and talk”** relentlessly, without despair, until these men were identified. Evidence

obtained from the investigation confirmed these men were responsible for the homicide of Alexuia. The Criminal Investigation Division assisted by the Lafayette Police and Lafayette Parish Sheriffs Department SWAT Teams, simultaneously executed warrants of arrest, last night, at the known addresses of the suspects, locating two. The third wanted suspect turned himself in following the arrest of **James** and **Gross**. We are very pleased with the tenacious commitment of the Criminal Investigation Division, faced with minimal information, armed with pure dedication, developing a suspect that resulted with multiple arrests.

Arrested: Joseph James (34) of 117 Daffodil Loop, Lafayette.

Arrested: Herbert Prejean (29) of 232 Mayo Drive, Lafayette.

Arrested: Thornton Gross (37) of 600 Sweetbriar Drive, Lafayette.